

**To:** Reynolds, Thomas[Reynolds.Thomas@epa.gov]  
**From:** Vaught, Laura  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 3:31:56 PM  
**Subject:** FW: PRESS CALL/AP/CO spill

**From:** Poirier, Bettina (EPW) [mailto:Bettina\_Poirier@epw.senate.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:28 AM  
**To:** Vaught, Laura  
**Subject:** FW: PRESS CALL/AP/CO spill

Fyi

**From:** Gilman, Kate (EPW)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:04 AM  
**To:** Poirier, Bettina (EPW); Kerr, Mary (EPW)  
**Subject:** PRESS CALL/AP/CO spill

**From:** Biesecker, Michael [mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 10:48 AM  
**To:** Gilman, Kate (EPW)  
**Subject:** RE: Boxer Calls on EPA to Take Necessary Steps to Protect the Communities Affected by the Major Wastewater Spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado

Kate,

We're doing a story on the political impact of the spill on EPA's credibility. Would Sen. Boxer have a moment to speak by phone today?

Thanks,

Michael

**From:** Gilman, Kate (EPW) [[mailto:Kate\\_Gilman@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Kate_Gilman@epw.senate.gov)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:11 PM  
**To:** Biesecker, Michael  
**Subject:** RE: Boxer Calls on EPA to Take Necessary Steps to Protect the Communities Affected by the Major Wastewater Spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado

Will do, Michael.

Thanks.

**From:** Biesecker, Michael [<mailto:MBiesecker@ap.org>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 11, 2015 7:06 PM  
**To:** Gilman, Kate (EPW)  
**Subject:** Re: Boxer Calls on EPA to Take Necessary Steps to Protect the Communities Affected by the Major Wastewater Spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado

Thanks Kate. Please let me know if anything else that comes along.

Michael

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Michael Biesecker

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The AP, founded in 1846, has a global network of 240 bureaus, providing news in text, audio, video, graphics and photos to more than 15,000 news outlets with a daily reach of 1 billion people worldwide.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 11, 2015, at 6:30 PM, Gilman, Kate (EPW) <[Kate\\_Gilman@epw.senate.gov](mailto:Kate_Gilman@epw.senate.gov)> wrote:

Hi Michael – saw that you have been covering this and wanted to make sure you saw this letter from Sen. Boxer that was sent to EPA this afternoon. Let us know if you have any questions.

Best,

Kate

For Immediate Release  
224-8832

Contact: Mary Kerr or Kate Gilman: 202-

August 11, 2015  
[kate\\_gilman@epw.senate.gov](mailto:kate_gilman@epw.senate.gov)

[mary\\_kerr@epw.senate.gov](mailto:mary_kerr@epw.senate.gov) or

## **U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works**

### **Senator Boxer Calls on EPA to Take All Necessary Steps to Protect the Communities Affected by the Major**

## **Wastewater Spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado**

**Washington, D.C.** -- Today Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy calling on EPA to take all necessary steps to address the wastewater spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado.

The full text of the letter is below and can be found [here](#).

August 11, 2015

The Honorable Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

Thank you for providing your senior staff for a briefing today on the wastewater spill from the Gold King Mine in Colorado into the Animus River. I am writing to follow up on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) efforts to address this serious spill, which released an estimated 3 million gallons of contaminated water containing high levels of dangerous toxins, including arsenic, lead and other heavy metals. This spill is already impacting several states as well as Indian Tribes.

I know you agree that protecting the health of the families and children that are affected by this large release of contaminated wastewater must be the EPA's top priority. EPA must commit to do whatever is necessary to mitigate the spill and its impacts.

I ask that you keep me regularly informed of the Agency's actions, as well as of the results of the ongoing investigation of this incident. In addition, I request that you commit to taking immediate action to ensure that EPA provides timely information to the affected communities and coordinates efforts with federal, state and local officials as the cleanup and investigation continue. I also urge EPA to take steps to ensure that a similar incident does not happen in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation with this request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer

Ranking Member

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